a plurality of independently operated processing units arranged respectively corresponding to said plurality of decoding units and configured to respectively execute different operations on the data decoded by said plurality of decoding units;

a judging unit configured to judge if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data according to the verified applicable time data in response to a request for an operation; and

an operation command issuing unit configured to issue a command responding to the request for the operation to a corresponding decoding unit and a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged by said judging unit to be in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data according to the verified applicable time data.

6.   (Twice Amended)   An information utilization apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a delivered piece of information including encoded data and applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use of the encoded data;

a verification unit configured to verify whether the applicable time data included in the delivered piece of information in said memory has been falsified;

a decoding unit configured to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

a plain data storage unit configured to store the data decoded by said decoding unit;

a plurality of independently operated processing units configured to respectively execute different operations on the decoded data stored by said plain data storage unit;

a judging unit configured to judge if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data according to the verified applicable time data in response to a request for an operation; and

an operation command issuing unit configured to issue a command responding to the request for the operation to said decoding unit and a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged by said judging unit to be in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data according to the verified applicable time data and said plain data storage unit does not store the decoded data, and to issue a command responding to the request for the operation to a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged by said judging unit to be in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data and said plain data storage unit stores the decoded data.

7. (Twice Amended) An information utilization apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a delivered piece of information including encoded data and applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use of the encoded data;

a verification unit configured to verify whether the applicable time data included in the delivered piece of information in said memory has been falsified;

a plurality of decoding units configured to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

a plurality of independently operated processing units arranged respectively corresponding to said plurality of decoding units and configured to respectively execute different operations on the data decoded by said plurality of decoding units;

a judging unit configured to judge if a current time is in the time period authorizing use

of the encoded data according to the verified applicable time data in response to a request for an

operation;

an operation command issuing unit configured to issue a command responding to the

request for the operation to a corresponding decoding unit and a corresponding processing unit if

the current time is judged by said judging unit to be in the time period authorizing use of the

encoded data; and

an operation command reserving unit configured to prevent the issuance of a command

responding to the request for the operation until the time authorizing use of the encoded data if

the current time is judged by said judging unit not to be in the time period authorizing use of the

encoded data.

8.   (Twice Amended)   An information utilization apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store a delivered piece of information including encoded data

and applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use of the encoded data;

a verification unit configured to verify whether the applicable time data included in the

delivered piece of information in said memory has been falsified;

a decoding unit configured to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

a plain data storage unit configured to store the data decoded by said decoding unit;

a plurality of independently operated processing units configured to respectively execute

different operations on the decoded data stored by said plain data storage unit;

a judging unit configured to judge if a current time is in the time period authorizing use

of the encoded data according to the verified applicable time data in response to a request for an

operation;

an operation command issuing unit configured to issue a command responding to the

request for the operation to said decoding unit and a corresponding processing unit if the current

time is judged by said judging unit to be in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data

by referring to the verified applicable time data and said plain data storage unit does not store the

decoded data, and to issue a command responding to the request for the operation to a

corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged by said judging unit to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data and said plain data storage unit stores the decoded

data; and

an operation command reserving unit configured to prevent the issuance of a command

responding to the request for the operation until the time authorizing use of the encoded data if

the current time is judged by said judging unit not to be in the time period authorizing use of the

encoded data.

10.   (Twice Amended)   An information access control method for use in an

information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores a delivered piece of information

including encoded data, said method comprising:

verifying whether applicable time data included in the delivered piece of information in

said memory has been falsified, the applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use

of the encoded data;

arranging a plurality of decoding units to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

arranging a plurality of independently operated processing units respectively corresponding to said plurality of decoding units to respectively execute different operations on data decoded by said plurality of decoding units;

judging if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by referring to the verified applicable time data in response to a request for an operation; and

issuing a command responding to the request for the operation to a corresponding decoding unit and a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by referring to the verified applicable time data.

11.   (Twice Amended)   An information access control method for use in an information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores a delivered piece of information including encoded data, said method comprising:

verifying whether applicable time data included in the delivered piece of information in said memory has been falsified, the applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use of the encoded data;

arranging a decoding unit to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

arranging a plain data storage unit to store data decoded by said decoding unit;

arranging a plurality of independently operated processing units to respectively execute different operations on data stored by said plain data storage unit;

judging if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by referring to the verified applicable time data in response to a request for an operation; and

issuing a command responding to the request for the operation to said decoding unit and a

corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time period authorizing

use of the encoded data by referring to the verified applicable time data and said plain data

storage unit does not store the decoded data, and issuing a command responding to the request

for the operation to a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data and said plain data storage unit stores the decoded

data.

12.   (Twice Amended)   An information access control method for use in an

information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores a delivered piece of information

including encoded data, said method comprising:

verifying whether applicable time data included in the delivered piece of information in

said memory has been falsified, the applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use

of the encoded data;

arranging a plurality of decoding units to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

arranging a plurality of independently operated processing units respectively

corresponding to said plurality of decoding units to respectively execute different operations on

data decoded by said plurality of decoding units;

judging if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by

referring to the verified applicable time data in response to a request for an operation;

issuing a command responding to the request for the operation to a corresponding

decoding unit and a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data; and

preventing the issuance of a command responding to the request for the operation until

the time authorizing use of the encoded data if the current time is judged not to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data.

13.   (Twice Amended)   An information access control method for use in an

information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores a delivered piece of information

including encoded data, said method comprising:

verifying whether applicable time data included in the delivered piece of information in

said memory has been falsified, the applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use

of the encoded data;

arranging a decoding unit to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

arranging a plain data storage unit to store data decoded by said decoding unit;

arranging a plurality of independently operated processing units to respectively execute

different operations on data stored by said plain data storage unit;

judging if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by

referring to the verified applicable time data in response to a request for an operation;

issuing a command responding to the request for the operation to said decoding unit and a

corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time period authorizing

use of the encoded data by referring to the verified applicable time data and said plain data

storage unit does not store the decoded data, and issuing a command responding to the request

for the operation to a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data and said plain data storage unit stores the decoded

data; and

preventing the issuance of a command responding to the request for the operation until

the time authorizing use of the encoded data if the current time is judged not to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data.

15.   (Twice Amended)   A storage medium having program code instructions stored

thereon which perform information access control when executed by a processor in an

information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores a delivered piece of information

including encoded data, said instructions comprising:

storing the delivered piece of information in said memory together with applicable time

data not to be falsified, the applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use of the

encoded data;

arranging a plurality of decoding units to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

arranging a plurality of independently operated processing units respectively

corresponding to said plurality of decoding units to respectively execute different operations on

data decoded by said plurality of decoding units;

judging if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by

referring to the applicable time data in response to a request for an operation; and

issuing a command responding to the request for the operation to a corresponding

decoding unit and a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data by referring to the applicable time data.

16.   (Twice Amended)   A storage medium having program code instructions stored

thereon which perform information access control when executed by a processor in an

information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores a delivered piece of information

including encoded data, said instructions comprising:

storing the delivered piece of information in said memory together with applicable time

data not to be falsified, the applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use of the

encoded data;

arranging a decoding unit to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

arranging a plain data storage unit to store data decoded by said decoding unit;

arranging a plurality of independently operated processing units to respectively execute

different operations on data stored by said plain data storage unit;

judging if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by

referring to the applicable time data in response to a request for an operation; and

issuing a command responding to the request for the operation to said decoding unit and a

corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time period authorizing

use of the encoded data by referring to said applicable time data and said plain data storage unit

does not store the decoded data, and issuing a command responding to the request for the

operation to a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time period

authorizing use of the encoded data and said plain data storage unit stores the decoded data.

17.   (Twice Amended)   A storage medium having program code instructions stored

thereon which perform information access control when executed by a processor in an

information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores a delivered piece of information

including encoded data, said instructions comprising:

storing the delivered piece of information in said memory together with applicable time

data not to be falsified, the applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use of the

encoded data;

arranging a plurality of decoding units to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

arranging a plurality of independently operated processing units respectively

corresponding to said plurality of decoding units to respectively execute different operations on

data decoded by said plurality of decoding units;

judging if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by

referring to applicable time data in response to a request for an operation;

issuing a command responding to the request for the operation to a corresponding

decoding unit and a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data; and

preventing the issuance of a command responding to the request for the operation until

the time authorizing use of the encoded data if the current time is judged not to be in the time

period authorizing use of the encoded data.

18.   (Twice Amended)   A storage medium having program code instructions stored

thereon which perform information access control when executed by a processor in an

information utilization apparatus having a memory which stores a delivered piece of information

including encoded data, said instructions comprising:

storing the delivered piece of information in said memory together with applicable time

data not to be falsified, the applicable time data defining a time period authorizing use of the

encoded data;

arranging a decoding unit to decode the encoded data stored in said memory;

arranging a plain data storage unit to store data decoded by said decoding unit;

a plurality of independently operated processing units to respectively execute different

operations on data stored by said plain data storage unit;

judging if a current time is in the time period authorizing use of the encoded data by

referring to applicable time data in response to a request for an operation;

issuing a command responding to the request for the operation to said decoding unit and a

corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time period authorizing

use of the encoded data by referring to said applicable time data and said plain data storage unit

does not store the decoded data, and issuing a command responding to the request for the

operation to a corresponding processing unit if the current time is judged to be in the time period

authorizing use of the encoded data and said plain data storage unit stores the decoded data; and